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Attachments: [HHRG-115-IF02-Wstate-LarsenA-20170906.pdf](#)
[HHRG-115-IF02-Wstate-GmezA-20170906.pdf](#)

The House subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing yesterday entitled “EPA Oversight: Unimplemented Inspector General and GAO Recommendations. There were two witnesses on the panel - Alan S. Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Alfredo Gómez, Director of Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office. Statements from both are attached.

While the intent of the hearing was to discuss outstanding GAO recommendations yet to be implemented by the agency, a significant portion of the members’ questions focused on Hurricane Harvey and its impacts, response efforts, lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, the Trump administration’s proposed draconian budget cuts to the agency, and how those cuts would limit the work of the agency in responding to disasters, cleaning up Superfund Sites, and making grants and loans for wastewater infrastructure. The one salient issue that seemed to draw many members’ interest was how effective the agency had been in managing its grants process.

Overall, Republicans made the point that there was a waste of taxpayer’s dollars for not implementing all of the OIG/GAO recommendations, Democrats made the point of focusing on the proposed Trump budget cuts to the Agency, as well as questioning why the Administrator has yet to appear before the committee, inferring that they felt that oversight included having the Administrator testify to Trump administration policies that have been implemented since taking office.

The hearing was largely a symbolic measure to go on record that the committee made time to hold a hearing to discuss the title issues and concluded without any additional follow-up or commitments from the panel.

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